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Paintings of Minnesota Legislator, UMM alumnus, Cy Thao, featured in next UMM Gallery exhibition

Summary:

(January 29, 2004)-The paintings of Minnesota State Representative and University of Minnesota, Morris alumnus, Cy Thao, will be featured during the next exhibition in the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery, February 12 through March 5 at UMM.

The exhibit will feature 50 paintings by Thao, which document the history of the Hmong people. Thao's series begins with Hmong creation myths and chronologically depicts the migration of the Hmong community from Southern China, to the mountains of Laos, to the refugee camps of Thailand, and finally to Minnesota.

Thao was born in Laos in 1972. His family spent the first two years of his life trying to escape war, and the next five in a refugee camp. The Thaos came to Minnesota in 1980. Cy graduated from UMM in 1995 with majors in political science and studio art. He is now a community activist and representative in the Minnesota State Legislature.

Thao will be present at the exhibition public opening reception, scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. He will also give a public Artist Lecture, titled, "Stories Without Words – The Hmong Migration," at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, in Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall.

Gallery hours for the exhibit are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 1-5 p.m. The exhibit and associated events are free and open to the public.

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